



JetToy Team Wins Silver in Distance

by Sonja Walti

Maury's JetToy team, composed of fifth graders, Taja White, Xavier Hill, Robert McFarlane, and Shaylah Jackson boarded a plane to Detroit on Tuesday, April 16, to compete in the 7th International JetToy competition that took place at Detroit's COBO Center.

The team was accompanied and coached by Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Ludes. An exciting competition awaited them the next day!

Early, on Wednesday, April 17, the team registered for the competition, which was attended by 119 other teams from as far away as India and as close as Detroit.

The morning was spent building the JetToy cars (small air propelled cars that are built on site with specific materials) and testing them on the tracks.

The Maury team's strategy was to split in two teams to build the cars faster and to check over each other's work.

The afternoon was dedicated to the actual competition, which took place in four disciplines: distance, weight, accuracy, and time.

Excitement was high, according to competitors Xavier and Robert. Asked how the team felt about their performance, Xavier says, "when we built our JetToy, we were anxious."

After seeing the car speed as far as it did during the distance competition, the team felt very excited and hopeful.



Robert's head meanwhile was filled with anxiousness about all the team had gone through to get there, the school-internal competition, the many hours building JetToys at Maury and studying their performance. He thought to himself "what if we don't score at all?"

At the award ceremony, the team was elated when hearing Maury's name for second place!

Many thanks to Think Tank & Science teacher Ms. Ford, who got the team started and trained, to Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Ludes, who coached and accompanied the team on their mission, to Maury parent Mr. Biswal for contributing his engineering expertise, and to the teachers, staff, and parents, who supported them!

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Library Corner

by Ms. Sweeney

April 18 was Poem in Your Pocket Day, a nationwide celebration of poetry in which people were encouraged to carry a favorite poem in their pockets, and share them with others. The celebration was founded in New York City in 2002, and has been celebrated nationwide since 2008. This was Maury's second year celebrating Poem in Your Pocket Day.

All kindergarten through fifth grade students chose a favorite poem to carry in their pockets all day long. Everyone wore stickers that said "I have a poem in my pocket. Ask me!" and all throughout the day, you could see students and staff members eagerly sharing their poems.

April is National Poetry Month, a celebration of poetry in all of its forms. Maury students have spent the month exploring and checking out books of poetry in the library. Poem in Your Pocket Day was a perfect way for students to share their favorites.



Pencil in the Arts

by Ms. Bomba

Spring is here and there couldn't be a better, brighter time to celebrate the arts! Mark your calendars for two exciting opportunities to see Maury student artwork exhibited around the city this May.

DC Public School visual arts students will have their night to shine as selected work is exhibited in a District wide art show opening May 23. In addition to a variety of media—from sculpture to painting, ceramics to drawing—over one hundred DC Public Schools will be represented. The theme of the show, "Great Schools, Great Artists," will highlight the tremendous work Pre-K through twelfth grade students have completed this year. This is a great chance to see what students are producing all over the District, including your child's future middle or high school art program!

In collaboration with the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, opening night will be held on May 23 from 6-8pm at the Commission's offices at 200 I Street, SE. The DC Commission on Arts and Humanities Director and Chair, as well as Chancellor Kaya Henderson will give opening remarks.

If you can't make it out for opening night (because you are at our fabulous spring concert instead!) all works will be on view through June 12, with additional works on view at DCPS offices located at 1200 First Street, NE. If you're looking for a more intimate viewing experience, make sure to check out a combination of great music and art at our very own DC3 Art and Music Show on May 29, at Walker Jones Education Campus. The opening reception and choral performance will last from 5-7 pm. Come show support for our wonderful collaborative!

DC CAS Pep Rally



Students participate in the DC CAS Pep Rally, which was held on Friday, April 19. The Pep Rally concluded Spirit Week for grades 2-5. (Photo by Elizabeth Nelson)

Maury Elementary Lemonade Day

by Elizabeth Nelson

On Wednesday, April 17, Maury student entrepreneurs sold gallons of fresh lemonade to peers, parents, and community members. It was a perfect day to do it, sunny and warm. And there were lots of patrons because they set up just as the weekly bake sale was winding down; all those sweet treats made everyone thirsty.

Maury Elementary was one of only four DCPS participants selected for the National Lemonade Day Program by Maury friend and neighbor, Maurice Cook of local non-profit Serve Your City (SYC).

When he was approached by the GWU School of Business to help identify model DC schools to deliver the Lemonade Day curriculum, he thought first of the Maury's Out of School Time Program and contacted Ms. Bailey. She directed him to Mr. Ihkeem Ma'at of Brave Heart Entrepreneurial Youth Camp, who leads the Business Club.



With support from the GWU business students who met with our students to discuss entrepreneurship, Lemonade Day at Maury was a complete success earning the students a \$130 profit.



Announcements

Upcoming Events

- May 3, 6p:** Sock Hop
- May 6-10:** Staff Appreciation Week
- May 8:** Bike to School Day
- May 9, 6p:** Science Exhibit
- May 13:** Summer Reader Launch
- May 15, 915a:** Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5
- May 16, 6p:** PTA Meeting
- May 17:** Sneak Peak Open House
- May 22 and 29:** Good Touch, Bad Touch
- May 23, 6p:** Spring Concert
- May 29:** DC3 Art Show & Spelling Bee
- May 30, 6p:** Sports & Activities Banquet
- May 31, 930a:** Career Day

Shad Countdown

The countdown has begun! Just a few more days until the Shad return to Maury. The hatchery is almost ready to host the many eggs that will briefly reside in our lobby. Eggs arrive on May 6! More about Living Classrooms and the Anacostia Watershed Society's Shad Recovery Project in the June newsletter.

We Need Your Pennies ...

To raise funds and awareness for Maury's Staff Appreciation Week, all classrooms have an opportunity to participate in our annual "PENNY WAR" mini-fundraiser from Monday, April 22 until May 3.

The classroom with the most pennies is treated to a "choose your own toppings" ice cream party during Staff Appreciation Week (May 6-10). Detailed rules can be found on flyers around the school. and be reminded that everyone deserves respect."

Bike to School Day

Two-wheel transportation is on the rise in DC as evident with the increase in bicycle lanes in the area. Many families are taking the opportunity to bike to school.

Wednesday, May 8 will mark the second annual National Bike To School Day. The event will take place that morning from 7:30 to 8:30am on the west side of Lincoln Park. Maury will join with several Capitol Hill schools for this event. Come on out and share in the benefits of biking to school. (Submitted by George Blackmon)

Staff Appreciation Week

President John F. Kennedy said:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Maury Staff Appreciation kicks off May 6-10. There is still time for you to get in on the fun!

- Monday: Ice cream social after school for the staff
- Tuesday/Wednesday: a fun service project
- Thursday: Nando's catered lunch
- Friday: breakfast buffet.

If you haven't already signed up to cover your class for Thursday's lunch or Friday's breakfast you are welcome to get messy on Tuesday, contribute a dessert for lunch or a dish for breakfast. You might also hear from your room parents regarding a class gratitude gift.

Email jen.smoker@verizon.net if you want to get involved. (Submitted by Jen Smoker)

